

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to incorporate allowable subject matter in claim 4, and claim 4 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Furthermore, claim 7 is amended into independent form, and claim 10 is added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

It is gratefully appreciated that the Office Action indicates that claim 8 is allowed, and that claims 4 and 7 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Rostoker (U.S. Patent No. 5,340,978); and claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Rostoker and Van Berkel (U.S. Patent No. 5,451,766).

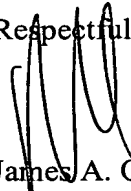
Claim 1 is amended to incorporate allowable subject matter in claim 4. Thus, claim 1 is in a condition for allowance. Moreover, claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 9 depend from claim 1. Thus, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Allowable claim 7 is amended into independent form, and new claim 10 depends from allowed claim 8. Thus, claims 7 and 10 are also in a condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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